

What is Claimed

1. A method for sharing files with remote users, the method comprising:

accepting a request from a file sharer to share a file with a remote user;

accessing credentials, the credentials configured to enable access to the file; and

generating a proxy representation for the file, the proxy representation associated with the remote user and storing a location of the file.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the credentials comprises accepting the credentials from the file sharer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the credentials comprises retrieving previously stored credentials.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising using the credentials to store a cached copy of the file in association with the proxy representation.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the credentials in association with the proxy representation.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting a view request from the remote user; and

enabling the remote user to view the file.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting a share request from the remote user; and

enabling the remote user to share the file with a third party.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting an email request from the remote user; and
transmitting an email associated with the file.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting a print request from the remote user; and
transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote
print service.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting a fax request from the remote user; and
transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote
fax service.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a request
generated by:

viewing a representation of the file within a graphical user
interface;
selecting the representation of the file within the graphical
user interface;
viewing a menu associated with the file, the menu displaying
actions that can be performed on the file; and
selecting a share option from the menu.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the proxy representation
comprises generating a proxy representation configured to enable the
remote user to modify the file.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the proxy representation
comprises generating a proxy representation configured to enable the
remote user to read the file.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein storing credentials comprises accepting the credentials from the file sharer.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if a database entry associated with the remote user is stored on an account database.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising storing the proxy representation in association with the database entry associated with the remote user in response to a positive determination.
17. The method of claim 15, further comprising generating a new database entry associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user.
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting a retrieval request from the remote user.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising using the credentials to retrieve the file.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the retrieval request includes authentication information for the remote user.
22. The method of claim 19, further comprising providing access to a cached version of the file.
23. The method of claim 19, further comprising accepting a modification request from the remote user.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein the modification request includes authentication information.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising using the credentials to modify the file.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

modifying a cached version of the file in response to the modification request; and
notifying the file sharer that the cached version has been modified.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising synchronizing the file with the cached version in response to a request from the file sharer.

28. The method of claim 25, further comprising notifying the file sharer that the file has been modified.

29. A system for sharing files with remote users, the system comprising:

a proxy database storing proxy representations, the proxy representations configured to enable access to files for remote users; and

a proxy configured to:

accept a request from a file sharer to share a file with a remote user;

access credentials, the credentials configured to enable access to the file; and

generate a proxy representation for the file.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy, when accessing the credentials, accepts the credentials from the file sharer.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy, when accessing the credentials, retrieves previously stored credentials.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to use the credentials to store a cached copy of the file in association with the proxy representation.

33. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to store the credentials in association with the proxy representation.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

accept a view request from the remote user; and
enable the remote user to view the file.

35. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

accept a share request from the remote user; and
enable the remote user to share the file with a third party.

36. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

accept an email request from the remote user; and
transmit an email associated with the file.

37. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

accept a print request from the remote user; and
transmit a print request associated with the file to a remote
print service.

38. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

accept a fax request from the remote user; and

transmit a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service.

39. The system of claim 29, wherein the request comprises a request generated by:

viewing a representation of the file within a graphical user interface;

selecting the representation of the file within the graphical user interface;

viewing a menu associated with the file, the menu displaying actions that can be performed on the file; and

selecting a share option from the menu.

40. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy, when generating the proxy representation, generates a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to modify the file.

41. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy, when generating the proxy representation, generates a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to read the file.

42. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy when storing credentials, accepts the credentials from the file sharer.

43. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to determine if a database entry associated with the remote user is stored on an account database.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein the proxy is further configured to store the proxy representation in association with the database entry associated with the remote user in response to a positive determination.

45. The system of claim 43, wherein the proxy is further configured to generate a new database entry associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein the proxy is further configured to transmit an email containing a registration key to the remote user.

47. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to accept a retrieval request from the remote user.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the proxy is further configured to use the credentials to retrieve the file.

49. The system of claim 47, wherein the retrieval request includes authentication information for the remote user.

50. The system of claim 47, wherein the proxy is further configured to provide access to a cached version of the file.

51. The system of claim 29, wherein the proxy is further configured to accept a modification request from the remote user.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the modification request includes authentication information.

53. The system of claim 51, wherein the proxy is further configured to use the credentials to modify the file.

54. The system of claim 51, wherein the proxy is further configured to:

 modify a cached version of the file in response to the
 modification request; and

 notify the file sharer that the cached version has been modified.

55. The system of claim 54, wherein the proxy is further configured to synchronize the file with the cached version in response to a request from the file sharer.

56. The system of claim 53, wherein the proxy is further configured to notify the file sharer that the file has been modified.

57. A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to manage access to remote files, the instructions comprising instructions for:

accepting a request from a file sharer to share a file with a remote user;

accessing credentials, the credentials configured to enable access to the file; and

generating a proxy representation for the file, the proxy representation associated with the remote user and storing a location of the file.

58. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the instructions for accessing the credentials comprise instructions for accepting the credentials from the file sharer.

59. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the instructions for accessing the credentials comprise instructions for retrieving previously stored credentials.

60. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for using the credentials to store a cached copy of the file in association with the proxy representation.

61. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for storing the credentials in association with the proxy representation.
62. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for:
- accepting a view request from the remote user; and
 - enabling the remote user to view the file.
63. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for:
- accepting a share request from the remote user; and
 - enabling the remote user to share the file with a third party.
64. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for:
- accepting an email request from the remote user; and
 - transmitting an email associated with the file.
65. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for:
- accepting a print request from the remote user; and
 - transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote print service.
66. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for:
- accepting a fax request from the remote user; and
 - transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service.

67. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the request comprises a request generated by:

viewing a representation of the file within a graphical user interface;

selecting the representation of the file within the graphical user interface;

viewing a menu associated with the file, the menu displaying actions that can be performed on the file; and

selecting a share option from the menu.

68. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the instructions for generating the proxy representation comprise instructions for generating a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to modify the file.

69. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the instructions for generating the proxy representation comprise instructions for generating a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to read the file.

70. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the instructions for storing credentials comprise instructions for accepting the credentials from the file sharer.

71. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for determining if a database entry associated with the remote user is stored on an account database.

72. The computer program product of claim 71, further comprising instructions for storing the proxy representation in association with

the database entry associated with the remote user in response to a positive determination.

73. The computer program product of claim 71, further comprising instructions for generating a new database entry associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination.

74. The computer program product of claim 73, further comprising instructions for transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user.

75. The computer program product of claim 57, further comprising instructions for accepting a retrieval request from the remote user.

76. The computer program product of claim 75, further comprising instructions for using the credentials to retrieve the file.

77. The computer program product of claim 75, wherein the retrieval request includes authentication information for the remote user.

78. The computer program product of claim 75, further comprising instructions for providing access to a cached version of the file.

79. The computer program product of claim 77, further comprising instructions for accepting a modification request from the remote user.

80. The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the modification request includes authentication information.

81. The computer program product of claim 79, further comprising instructions for using the credentials to modify the file.

82. The computer program product of claim 79, further comprising instructions for:

modifying a cached version of the file in response to the modification request; and
notifying the file sharer that the cached version has been modified.

83. The computer program product of claim 82, further comprising instructions for synchronizing the file with the cached version in response to a request from the file sharer.

84. The computer program product of claim 81, further comprising instructions for notifying the file sharer that the file has been modified.

85. A method for enabling access to files, the method comprising:
receiving a sending request for an email message from a file sharer, the sending request associated with a recipient and a file having a file location; and
creating a proxy representation for the file, the proxy representation configured to enable the recipient to access the file; and
storing a reference in the message, the reference associated with the proxy representation.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein receiving the sending request comprises accepting a sending request for the email message through a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface, the sending request including the file location.

87. The method of claim 85, wherein receiving the sending request comprises:

intercepting the email message; and

separating a file attachment comprising a copy of the file from the email message.

88. The method of claim 85, wherein:

receiving the sending request comprises receiving the sending request for the email message through an email client, the sending request including the file location; and
creating the proxy representation comprises sending a proxy representation creation request to a remote server.

89. The method of claim 85, further comprising storing credentials, the credentials configured to enable access to the file.

90. The method of claim 85, wherein the proxy representation is associated with a cached copy of the file.